

June 8, 2020

Dear Ms. Greenfield,

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities here in Iowa, making up an estimated 99% of all the businesses in our state. Our local communities—and most especially our rural communities—are made up of small businesses and depend on them to employ hard working families and to provide critical, irreplaceable services.

As small business owners, and as Iowans, we are deeply troubled by your record as president of the Des Moines real estate firm Colby Interests of [evicting small businesses](#)<sup>1</sup> here in our state to make room for a multinational corporation. This is particularly concerning given your repeated claims as a candidate for U.S. Senate to be a friend of small businesses.

Specifically, we believe it's critical fellow small businesses, and all Iowans, get answers to important questions about your decisions and actions to evict and displace several small businesses from the Apple Valley Shopping Center in Windsor Heights, many of which had been in that location for decades (*Des Moines Register*: "[Ousted Apple Valley tenants find new homes](#)"<sup>2</sup>; KCCI-8: "[Businesses learn they have 2 months to move out](#)"<sup>3</sup>), in order to move in a German multinational corporation.

We respectfully request responses to the following questions:

- 1) As president of Colby Interests, why did you make the decision to evict these Iowa small businesses from the Apple Valley Shopping Center, many of which had been there for decades?
- 2) Why did you provide such short notice (60 days) for these small businesses before their forced displacement?
- 3) What were the details of the proposed agreement between your firm and the German multinational corporation that led to these Iowa small businesses being evicted?
- 4) Will you commit to providing detailed records of the proposed agreement between your firm and the German multinational corporation so the public can examine your decisions and actions as president?
- 5) How can small business owners trust that, given your record of favoring a multinational corporation over Iowa small businesses, you would prioritize our needs as a U.S. Senator?

If you are seeking to represent Iowa small businesses in Washington, Iowa small businesses deserve answers about your record. We look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> The *Washington Free Beacon*: Iowa Dem Evicted Local Businesses to Make Way for Multinational Chain; <https://freebeacon.com/2020-election/iowa-dem-evicted-local-businesses-to-make-way-for-multinational-chain/>

<sup>2</sup> The *Des Moines Register*: Ousted Apple Valley tenants find new homes; <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2015/09/25/ousted-shopping-center-tenants-windsor-heights-clive/72689156/>

<sup>3</sup> KCCI-8: Businesses learn they have 2 months to move out; <https://www.kcci.com/article/businesses-learn-they-have-2-months-to-move-out/6451637>

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